

Committee Composition and Allocation of Seats to Political Groups

Report of the Clerk

For further information about this report please contact Anthea Lowe, Clerk and Monitoring Officer, on 01952 383219.

1 Purpose of Report

This report asks the Fire Authority to agree both the composition of its Committees and the allocations of seats on its committees to political groups.

2 Recommendations

The Fire Authority is asked to decide upon Committee composition and allocation of seats to political groups, as proposed in the Appendix to this report.

3 Background

In accordance with the Fire Authority's Standing Order 7(2) (for the Regulation of Proceedings and Business), the Fire Authority is required to review at its Annual Meeting the constitution and composition of any committees or sub-committees, which have been appointed.

The Local Government and Housing Act 1989, and Regulations made thereunder, require that seats on standing committees are politically balanced across the total number of committee places (i.e. in aggregate) and, subject to that overriding requirement, each committee has to be politically balanced, as far as reasonably practicable.

4 Committee Composition and Allocation of Seats

The proposed committee composition and allocation of seats is set out in the Appendix to this report, which Members are requested to consider and decide upon.

An Independent member was appointed to the Fire Authority by Shropshire Council in May 2021. The member concerned has affiliated to the Liberal Democrat Group in order that they can participate in the Fire Authority's Committees. The allocations set out in the Appendix reflect this.

5 Financial Implications

There are no direct costs arising from the recommendations of this report, although many decisions of committees will impact on budgets and need financial approval.

6 Legal Comment

The Fire Authority must comply with the political balance requirements of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and associated Regulations, when allocating seats on its standing committees. The proposals contained within this report comply with the obligations contained within the legislation.

7 Initial Impact Assessment

As this report merely proposes allocations of seats to political groups in order to meet legislative requirements, an Initial Impact Assessment has not been completed.

8 Equality Impact Assessment

As this report has no differential impacts on people, an Equality Impact Assessment is not required.

9 Appendix

Proposed Committee Composition and Allocation of Seats to Political Groups

10 Background Papers

There are no background papers associated with this report.